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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
07/565,673	08/10/1990	JOHANNES C. VAN DER LAAN		8222

7590 12/01/2004

DEBRA J. GLAISTER PATENT AGENT
GENENCOR INTERNATIONAL INC.
925 PAGE MILL ROAD
PALO ALTO, CA 94304

EXAMINER

FRONDA, CHRISTIAN L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	1652

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	07/565,673	VAN DER LAAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christian L Fronda	1652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 August 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 48,50 and 53-55 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 48,50 and 53-55 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 48, 50, and 53-55 are pending and under consideration in this Office Action.
2. The rejection of claim 48 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) has been withdrawn in view of applicants' amendments.
3. The rejection of claims 50 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) has been withdrawn in view of applicants' amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st Paragraph

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:
The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.
5. Claims 48, 50, and 53-55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Applicants' arguments filed 08/10/2004 have been fully considered and are persuasive in part. Applicants' position is that the claims are amended which meet the written description requirement. The Examiner respectfully disagrees for reasons of record as stated below.

The amendments to the claims do not overcome the written description rejection because they are genus claims that are not adequately described by the specification. The disclosed asporogenous mutant of *Bacillus novo* species PB92 stain that has been genetically manipulated to have chromosomal the wild-type *Bacillus* PB92 extracellular serine protease gene replaced with an inactive gene fragment containing only the 5' and 3'flanking sequences of the *Bacillus* PB92 extracellular serine protease gene resulting in the *Bacillus* strain having no detectable level of *Bacillus* PB92 extracellular serine protease activity, is not representative of the claimed genus since the claims encompasses many other wild-type serine proteases with differing biological, chemical, and physical properties including differing amino acid sequences and structures (see the previous Office Action dated 04/26/2004).

Thus, Applicants have failed to sufficiently describe the claimed invention, in such full,

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clear, concise, and exact terms that a skilled artisan would recognize Applicants were in possession of the genus of claims 48, 50, and 53-55. Amending the claims to recite that the strain has an inactivated wild-type *Bacillus* PB92 extracellular serine protease gene resulting in the strain having no detectable level of *Bacillus* PB92 extracellular serine protease activity may overcome the rejection, and a high alkaline serine protease of *Bacillus* PB92 having a replacement at an amino acid residue position selected from the group consisting of positions 160, 216, and 212 may over come the rejection.

Conclusion

6. No claim is allowed.
7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christian L Fronda whose telephone number is (571)272-0929. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday between 9:00AM - 5:00PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapura N Achutamurthy can be reached on (571)272-0928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.
9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CLF



PONNATHAPU ACHUTA MURTHY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600